



The Beach Knitting Bag Swings from a Cane, Upheld by the Sand

Knit - and the World Knits With You!

by Hester Winthrop



Wherever Two or Three are Gathered Together Comforts are in the Making for Soldiers

To be Able to Knit as One Walks Proves Mastery of the Art



No One Expects a Hostess to Rise, When She is Engaged in Critical Business of "Binding Off"

American Women One Vast Unit, Knitting for the Red Cross -- Mufflers Are Easiest To Do But Sweaters Are Most Interesting -- What Sort of Wool To Buy and How To Set To Work.

MORE busy than flicker of butterfly wings, or the buzz of bumblebees, this summer, is the flash of knitting needles. Everywhere one sees the flying needles—at the theatre, on the railroad train, on excursion steamers, in restaurants, in the crowded subway cars, even on the sidewalks. Woman's knitting bag and woman are inseparable companions, for there must be no idle minutes if all the sweaters and mufflers, all the mittens and compress pads are to be finished in time. In time—that is, to reach the soldiers before cold weather; and for every soldier there is, these days, somewhere a woman knitting.

Most of the work is done under the auspices of the Red Cross, but one may obtain materials and directions for knitting anywhere. The work of knitting comfort garments for the sailors of the United States Navy has been officially placed in charge of the Comforts Committee of the Navy League by an order of Secretary of the Navy Daniels. If you want to knit for the Jackies, drop a line to the headquarters of the Comforts Committee of the Navy League, at Washington, and directions for doing this work will be sent you. Every shop seems to have a supply of the necessary wools and the right

needles, with lists of directions about setting to work. Let not the tyro at knitting think, however, that she can turn in work of any old kind. Every article knitted must come up to the specifications of the Red Cross—and the standard of work is high in this organization. Dropped stitches will not be tolerated, or uneven widths resulting from that frequent fault of the beginner in knitting—too many stitches. The beginner is very, very careful not to drop stitches, but where is the beginner who is not sorely puzzled to understand why more and more stitches keep growing on her needles as she goes along?

Easy To Learn To Knit But Practice Makes A Good Knitter.

Anybody can learn to knit—even a child of five years old; but the ability to knit perfectly and at the same time rapidly comes only with practice and close attention. Some of the sweaters turned out in the past few years by enthusiastic women who "could hardly wait to get them finished" have been a disgrace to the gentle art of knitting. Dropped stitches, bulging or sagging lines and knot-tortured surfaces have betrayed the unskilled and too-hasty fingers that wielded the flying needles. No such work is tolerated in garments for the soldiers, and if woman is learning nothing else this summer, she is learning to knit perfectly.

Best To Begin On Something Easy.

Do not plunge into the knitting coterie with a sweater, set up on your needles by some kind friend, or by a demonstrator in the shop where you bought the wool. Learn to set up stitches yourself and set up and pull off after a few ribs have been finished, several times until you have mastered this first important step in the craft. There are women who have completed whole sweaters for themselves without ever having learned how to set up stitches on a needle; some kindly individual starting the work and attending to the setting-up business where sleeves were added,

pockets started, or other details attended to. The best thing to begin on is a washcloth or compress pad. Cotton is used, not wool, and after the stitches are set up in proper number one has only to knit straight ahead until a square is obtained. If a mistake is made little time will be lost pulling out the stitches and beginning over and one will not feel the same discouragement as in pulling to pieces a potential woolen garment. After you have acquired the knack of knitting evenly without dropped stitches or extra stitches unaccountably burdening the needle, begin on a wool muffler. For this you will need half a pound of knitting yarn and fifty stitches must be set up—or "cast on" if you prefer that term. Then knit until the muffler is fifty-eight inches long, no longer and no shorter; for remember it is the Red Cross you have to deal with, and every bit of work submitted must meet specifications. It may not seem to you that half an inch on the length of a ten-inch washcloth could make any possible difference to anybody; but if you were a Red Cross nurse, handling piles and piles of these knitted cloths, it would matter a good deal to you whether the piles could be heaped up evenly and accurately, and not with ragged edges where washcloths projected half an inch here and there.

Directions For War-Knitters.

Sometime ago this page gave a list

of directions for the knitting of sweaters, mufflers and wristlets for the army and navy, but so many requests have come in from women anxious to set to work that it is deemed advisable to repeat the directions. The sleeveless jacket is a particularly useful article and may be worn over the shirt or used as a substitute for the shirt. It slips over the head and fits smoothly over the body, clinging to the hips. The wristlets serve for gloves and wristbands and a space is provided for the thumb to pass through. These easily knitted wristlets will be of inestimable comfort to sailors and to soldiers in the trenches when cold weather sets in.

The Sleeveless Jacket. Three-fourths of a pound of gray knitting yarn. Cast on 80 stitches. Knit two and purl two for 4 inches. Knit plain until sweater measures 23 inches. Knit 28 stitches and bind off 24 stitches for neck. Knit 28 stitches. Cast seven ribs on each shoulder. Knit on 24 stitches. Purl two and knit two for 4 inches. Sew up sides, leaving 9 inches for armholes.

Wristlets. One-fourth pound gray knitting yarn. Cast on 52 stitches. Knit two and purl two for 12 inches. Sew up, leaving a two-inch space for thumb, three inches from top.

The Red Cross also asks for washcloths and knitted "wipes" or substitutes for gauze sponges.

Knitted Wipes. Three-ply No. 8 cotton. No. 5 amber needles, or their equivalent. Cast on 25 stitches. Knit across and back or one rib. Knit a stitch, put thread around needle, knit next stitch and repeat until you have ten of the double rows and nine of the single large mesh rows, and finish off.

Washcloths. Eight or 10 three-ply knitting cotton and No. 4 needles. Cast on 61 stitches and knit until you have a square. Washcloth should measure ten inches square.

The Social Side of War Knitting.

Besides its real purpose of providing comforts for the men who are going forth to fight, and the happiness it gives to hundreds of women who are gladly availing themselves of this opportunity to "do their bit" and of real service, knitting has its social side too. Many are the afternoon porch parties given in honor of knitting this summer. Bridge tables are not brought out but needles fly wherever two or three are gathered together. At many of these afternoon gatherings on the porch or under the

trees in the garden, some member of the party reads aloud—not a novel but something interesting, pertaining to the war. Better work is accomplished by the knitting contingent in this way, for though one may chatter blithely while doing ordinary knitting, purling requires absorbed attention and much concentration—and purling is an important feature in the knitting of war garments. You will note that the young woman who knits as she walks has passed the purling stage on her sweater and is doing straight knitting. Only an expert could walk and purl at the same time.

One has become so accustomed now to seeing flying knitting needles in the subway and other public conveyances that the sight no longer arouses special attention. With the knitting bag always conveniently at hand, it is easy to add a rib or two between ordering and lunching at a restaurant, or between the acts at a matinee. One enthusiastic maiden even carried her knitting to the movies, but so many dropped stitches had to be picked up next day that she reluctantly abandoned the practice. And by the bye, be sure and learn how to recover dropped stitches by aid of a crochet hook. A dropped stitch picked up in time may save nine ribs of raveled out work! And learn, if you can, the rapid Dutch method of knitting. It is not as graceful as the old-fashioned Colonial way of throwing the wool over with a movement of the wrist, but it is much more speedy when once acquired. One must learn this method of knitting as a beginner, however; it is almost impossible to acquire the knack, once the other method has become a habit. If your eyes are not strong, use white bone needles, upon which the dark wool shows up better than on amber needles. And by all means learn to wind your ball of yarn from the inside-out so that it is not forever rolling about and making people stoop to pick it up.

PAISLEY NET WITH SUMMER WEATHER.

It seems that the gay Paisley effects have so endeared themselves to womankind that they could not be given up, even when warm weather made Paisley shawl fabrics look too solid and substantial to be pleasing to the fancy. The new Paisley designs are on net and the rich colors and Persian designs are very attractive against the filmy background.

Swimming Accessories of Rubber

RUBBER plays such a large part in the modern bathing outfit that it is hard to realize that only a few years ago the only rubber item in a swimming costume was the bit of elastic run through casings in the bloomer garment that preceded modern knitted tights. Though the bloomer has gone, elastic is still used in the tights, to keep them snugly in place and to help support the stockings, drawn up under them; but there is so much rubber in the rest of the costume that the rubber elastic have sunk to the non-importance of a mere "finishing" in the making of the suit—like the snap fasteners that hold the bodice together and the silk thread that sews up the seams. Not that the silk thread is unimportant, however. Any woman who has bought an alluring bathing suit that happened to be sewed together with cheap thread, knows just what the sun and salt water did to that thread and the puckered, shrunken and faded condition of the seams after a week or so. The beauty of rubber in the bathing suit is that the salt water and the sun affect it not at all. Rubber caps keep their joyous color, no matter how brightly the sun blazes overhead—something that

could not be said for cap-kerchiefs of ordinary silk. And as for the salt water—there is a deal less washing and curling of tresses between bath time and dinner time than there used to be, when kerchiefs were the fashion. Equipped with a rubber bathing cap and a close-fitting rubber diving cap for wear under the outer, more fetching head-covering, any maid may bid defiance to salt water, even if she has had her hair expensively marcelled before the bath.

The diving cap is not necessary if one merely frolics in the surf or dabbles about in shallow water—or even if in deep water provided the head is not submerged. Flying spray will not do much harm if the hair is well covered by a well-fitted rubber bathing cap or hat; but the swimmer who goes under water and through the waves must be better protected. The hair is brushed smoothly back and made into a compact, yet soft knot high on the head and the rubber diving cap is pulled well down over it, not a loose curl or tendril being allowed to stray outside the edge of the tight cap. Then the becoming rubber hat or knotted kerchief is donned and one is ready for under-water swimming, quite sure

that one's locks will come through the ordeal fluffy, soft and dry. Be sure, however, that no long-pronged hair-pins are sticking out anywhere before the diving cap is donned. One sharp point, piercing the cap, will ruin the latter absolutely for use.

The woman who has not naturally curly hair can buy coiffure accessories for bathing in the way of curls, wavy front pieces or ear puffs. These, allowed to show outside the edge of the rubber cap will add much to its becomingness, and the artificial hair may be rinsed in clear water and dried after the bath, without affecting the looks of the dinner coiffure. The harsh line of a tight diving cap is anything but becoming; but somehow or other there is a sporting suggestion about the effect. One is certain the young woman who comes down the beach with hair firmly and sternly covered by one of these anything-but-beautiful caps, is a splendid swimmer and above small vanities about personal appearance when real sport is in progress. It is out at the last ropes, beyond the breakers, or on the life-rafts, several hundred feet from shore, that one encounters the diving-capped young person; all the fascinating and fetching rubber bonnets and



Because A Beach Hat Is Of Rubber Is No Reason Why It May Not Be Charming And Becoming.

important in a bathing suit as in any other costume. The most becoming type of rubber swimming cap—or one should say, rather, sunning cap, since these caps are better on the sand than in deep

water—is the mushroom type. A very fetching mushroom hat of pearl gray rubber, with a pleated edge and a flower of rose pink rubber at the front, is pictured. The puffed crown and pleated edge are mounted on a close fitting under-cap of rubber and the hair is well protected from flying spray. A sailor type is illustrated also. Of course one would not expect to dive and swim in this smart hat, but it is ideal for beach wear, shading the back of the neck as well as the face. The brim of striped blue, rose and black rubber, matches a roomy reticule in which the hat may be carried, along with one's bathing dress and perhaps a bit of knitting for the soldiers, to be picked up as one dries off on the sand. The crown of the hat is collapsible and is made of taffeta silk.

Did you know that you can keep a handkerchief nice and dry, and freshly folded as it came from the laundry, while you swim out to the raft—all ready to wipe the salt water from your cheeks when you emerge from the briny deep? There are rubber handkerchief bags which may be tucked in a pocket of the bathing dress, and an inside, oiled silk pocket makes assurance doubly sure, if you feel any doubt about the dryness of your mouchoir after a long swim. Vanity belongings, also, can be carried in these little bags; a tiny powder puff to take the shine off one's nose, or a tube of cold cream to rub into arms likely to become sunburned. Crepe rubber sandals hug the foot like a glove in the water, and are not

as cumbersome for swimming as the ordinary canvas bathing shoe. There are rubberized silk capes too, for beach wear and cushions of rubber which a wet bathing suit cannot injure in the least.



The Bluebird Cap, All In Blue Rubber With The Bird—Also Of Rubber—Poised In Front.

